

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: College Possible

Application ID: 13ES145018

Program Name: College Possible -Academic/College Preparation & Success

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- (+) The applicant provides persuasive evidence of the long-term positive social effects of economically disadvantaged youth gaining post-secondary degrees, citing research from sources including the U.S. Census and Postsecondary Education Opportunity.
- (+) The applicant identifies the benefit of having AmeriCorps members, many of them first-generation students and/or people of color and all of whom will be recent college graduates, serve as coaches to youth who are preparing for or are already enrolled in college. That is, these Members will better be able to identify with the youth's specific challenges and concerns compared to non-college-educated and/or older volunteers.
- (+) The proposal includes the details of choosing AmeriCorps members from the same communities as the schools so that the Members can create community and can work with the students for the duration of their high school years.
- (+) The applicant describes program objectives clearly informed by external research demonstrating the importance of test preparation, college application assistance, and financial aid application assistance to youth preparing for or already enrolled in college.
- (+) The applicant describes a well-designed plan of reaching and tracking students with hopes of serving 2,600 high school students and 1,000 college students by the end of year three. Performance measures will be based on internal data collection and through external program analysis and evaluation.
- (-) The applicant does not identify a specific rationale to justify why the program is targeting the suggested population.
- (-) The applicant cites sources without giving dates that support the research or statistics. For example, the applicant cited Wisconsin DPI as stating only 21% of the Milwaukee students report plans to attend a four-year college, but fails to report when this data was collected.